N.O. trip 11/18/24/71

Dear Bud, 12/10/71

In a memo I gave Jim (and if I haven't, it is still unpacked, having been typed in New Orleans), I provided certain notes about the addresses I found in unidentified notes JER told me 11/16 came from Russell Thompson who, in turn, is said to have gotten them from the NAACP. It is not now possible to say whether these addresses have any meaning or actual relationship with the case, but on the copy JER sent me certain marks were added in ink and he pretends to know nothing about their significance.

In those notes I pointed out certain errors, as in "Polyania" as the name of a street, and my assumption that it might have been intended for Polymnia. I can't reconcile some of the St. Charles addresses, and the suggestion by my Narcs contact that perhaps St. Claude was intended seems not to be the case, St. Claude seemin to be the northward extension of Rampart.

If one ignores what cannot be fixed with ce tainty and one other, the Greenwood Cemetery notation, then all the addresses fall into what in a straight city would be a straight-line relationship. You are aware of the sinuous nature of the Mississippi at this point. New Orleans is folded into the left-hand side, looking at a map, or is conformed to it.

Please let me know if I didn't give im a copy of my 11/21, "addresses in Russell Thompson's notes", and I'll bring the original in and make a copy. I ran out of paper and may not have. I don't recall.

If one regards St. Charles Ave as a straight street, then these addresses lie on both sides of it and close to it. St. Charles becomes Royal in the Quarter. The only one more than a block of so from it is Chestnut and Joseph. If one continues downtown, or twoard Canal from Joseph, because of the layout of the streets, where Chestnut ends, Felicity, is but three short blocks from St. Charles (and close to two other addresses.

I have marked up my map to illustrate these things to you. What I am suggesting is that these places, if real, are easy for an inept stranger to find if he begins at Chartres and Urusuline, where the Provincial Hotel is. A left turn onto Urusuline and a left turn at the first street, Royal, leads directly into St. Charles, which begins that identity at Canal (and exactly coincides with the location of a bar on Canal in which Ray told me he had a meeting-it is not possible to identify the bar from his description and I doubt it would do any good after this lapse of time anyway). At. St. Joseph, this is but one block away from the river to Carondelet (which runs downtwon where it is one-way).

Felicity is the fourth street toward Canal from Jackson Ave., if you remember it. The Pontchartrain Hotel is slightly toward Canal from Jackson. At this point, Polymnia and Prytania is one block toward the river from St. Charles, and 1608 Carondelet is one block in the opposite direction.

If by Carrel is meant Carrol, theire being no Carrel, then this is but a block away from the river between Poydras and Perdido, the fiest shor street away from Carondelet.

Carondelet and Prytania are on either side of St. Charles.

Assumingbars to be ideal meeting places, if there is a single excepetion to the proximity of a bar to any of these addresses, it is the 1808 Carondelet address, and I do not recall if there is a bar at either corner in that short block. I have suggested other significance to this address in the cited memo.

Let me try and orient you with St. Charles and these other addresses. When you knew Hatt, he lived near St. Charles, away from the river side. The main cross street is Broadway. He was one street uptown from it (please remember that compared with the norm, in N.O. up and downtown are reversed, and "downtown" is generally south). This is the University se ction. Toward Canal on the River side is Audubon Park, opposite it the universities, which run uptown from Broadway. The pary begins two short blocks downtown, or center-city side of Broadway.

Perhaps you will also recall that at approximately right-angles to St. Charles, periodically there are major cross streets. Broadway is one such. The next, going toward Canal, is Jefferson, followed by Napoleon, Louisiana and Jackson. Well, Chestnut and Joseph two blocks on the Audubon Park and Broadway side of Jefferson. And at this point there is something true of Chestnut that is not true anywhere else in it entire length: there is an offset at Joseph, a slight jog, as the pictures will show, toward St. Charles. One might conjecture that this could be a landmark to an inept stranger.

The other addresses also cluster on both sides of the Exoressway, I90.

I took some pictures of the dock and warehouse area immediately uptwon from the new International Trade Mart Bldg. It is the last place one would ordinarily go on clandestine business, according to those police sources I checked, but I suggest this gives it an asset to those who want to do nothing but sit and talk for a minute, are not engaged in any criminal activity. On non-weekdays it is the most unpopulated place near center city. Weekdays it teems with strangers there on legitimate business, and two met sitting in a car would be unnoted. In any event, starting with the Provincial, if one wanted to get into this general area, which is close to the clustered addresses, one would go past Ursulines to Governor Nicholls, turn right for one block, turn right again at the first corner, and would be on Decatur at the downtown end of the French Market. Downtown of this ppint, at St. Louis, which is the fourth street from Canal, there are options, either one of which would lead to that general area, with the same, unmistakable landmark at St. Joseph. Staying straight on Decutur, it becomes Magazine at Canal. There is a fork you may remember near the Jax Brewery, Peter St, which is a bit doagonal to the left or twoard the river which has at this point just begun to flow away, or to the left of the trabeller on Decatur. Peter becomes a main thoroughfare for that area at Canal, Tchoupitalous (right), pronounced Chew-pit-tool-is. A spur of the Public Belt R.R. ends between Magazine and Camp (toward St. Charles and away from river at this point). So, taking either Decatur or Peters, there is this unique landmark, the railroad tracks smack dab in the middle of St. Joseph. And this is the <u>only</u> street at right-angles to the river of which this is true. Coincidence only?

If we also conjecture that the phone number of the Placid Oil Co. is the correct one, then the address is very close to this area. Loyola Is Basin Street on that side of Canal. It is the first away from the river from Rampart. It is cut off by th Expressway I 90, Now, going uptown, or toward this expressway, from the Saratoga Bldg., Placid offices, which is I believe, like Carroll, is between Loydras and Perdido (I didn't check it there) and a very short walk to Carroll, in three blocks it dead ends, in Howard, its continuation, at an angle toward the river. And Howard lead directly into St. Joseph, which is the first cross street at this point.

All of this may mean nothing. But from an on-the-spot check, one thing is apparent: those addresses that are correct and clustered, easily located by a stranger, are in a tough section in which there are numerous bars, and are located in a part of the city where fewer questions would ever be asked, where people learn not to see and remember, and where strangers can't be uncommon. Except for busy bars in the area of better bars, where only the well-dressed would be unnoted, it is in some ways an ideal rendezvous area, especially bercause it is an area in which such meetings would not be under the intense police observation of the Quarter. Assuming these to be rendezvous points, then they have the added merit of taking a stranger to a different place each time, yet into an area with which he would become more familiar each trip.

Bearing on this, I have made copies of the N.O. city directory for that period. When I can I will put them together. I have them for each street metnioned. Likewise, the criss-cross onthe phones that seem close to the number I have. When I can, I'll put them together.